

## 2.3 America Becomes a World Power

1890-1914

What are we going to do tonight, Brain?

the same thing we  
do every night, Pinky....



**...TRY AND TAKE  
OVER THE WORLD!**

# Imperialism

Political, military, or economic control by one nation over other territories

- Before 1890, US lands included the contiguous states and Alaska.
- By 1917, US controlled a global empire.
  - American Samoa, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Panama, Virgin Islands



# “Seward’s Folly”



- In 1867, Senator William Seward proposed the purchase of Alaska.
- US pays Russia \$7.2 million in 1868 for the territory.
- Many called this purchase “Seward’s Folly”
  - A folly is a foolish act or idea.

# Purchase of Alaska



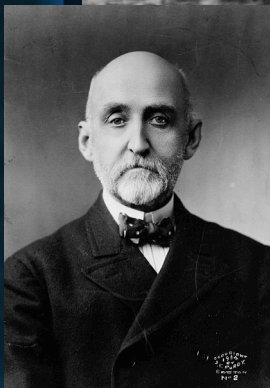
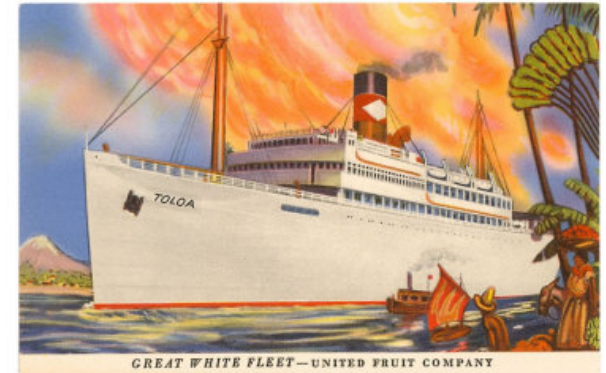
Acquires vast new natural resources for the US.



# Reasons for US Imperialism

1. Industrialization – New consumers and markets for American goods
2. Nationalism - European powers claimed colonies across the globe. America would have to compete for international status.
3. Social Darwinism - “survival of the fittest” in the race for territories, markets, and resources

# US Navy “Great White Fleet”



**Alfred T. Mahan** - argued that US power would rely on building a modern navy & acquiring naval bases around the world



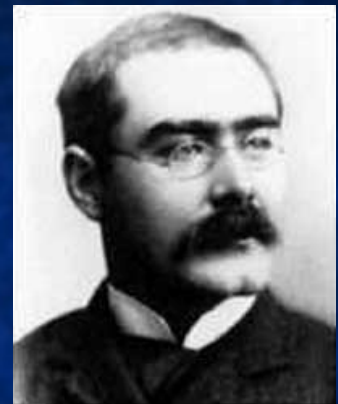
# Reasons for US Imperialism

4. **Anglo-Saxon Superiority** - white culture is superior & the US has a responsibility to civilize other cultures
  - **Frederick Jackson Turner** - Manifest destiny should continue overseas
  - **Josiah Strong** - Missionary who argued for Americans to spread Christianity & American ways of life overseas
  - **“White Man’s Burden”** - poem written by Rudyard Kipling that describes imperialism as a burden or duty of white people to civilize and modernize other cultures



# “White Man’s Burden” (1899)

Take up the White Man's burden  
Send forth the best ye breed  
Go bind your sons to exile  
To serve your captives' need  
To wait in heavy harness  
On fluttered folk and wild  
Your new-caught, sullen peoples  
Half-devil and half-child.







“The White Man’s Burden”





“There’s plenty of room at the table.  
Why not ask the hungry little fellow to sit down?”

# In Their Own Words

---

“And now, four centuries from the discovery of America, at the end of a hundred years of life under the Constitution, the frontier has gone, and with its going has closed the first period of American history.”



# In Their Own Words

---

“The two great needs of mankind are Christianity and civil liberty. The Anglo-Saxon, as the great representative of these two ideas, is divinely commissioned to be his brother's keeper.”

# In Their Own Words

---

“God has made us adept in government that we may administer government among savage and senile peoples. He has marked the American people as His chosen nation to finally lead in the redemption of the world.”



# In Their Own Words

---

“We have expanded into Asia, we have attracted the fragments of the Spanish dominions, and reaching out into China we have checked the advance of Russia and Germany. The United States will outweigh any single empire. The whole world will pay her tribute.”

# In Their Own Words

---

“The acquisition of the Dominican Republic is desirable because of its geographical position. It commands the entrance to the Caribbean Sea and the Panama transit of commerce. It possesses the richest soil, best harbors, healthy climate, and the most valuable products of the forest, mine, and soil of any of the West Indian Islands.”



# In Their Own Words

---

“When I realized that the Philippines had dropped into our laps I confess I did not know what to do with them. One night late it came to me this way...we could not leave them to themselves--they were unfit for self-government--and they would soon have anarchy and misrule.”

# In Their Own Words

---

“If we seek merely swollen, slothful ease and ignoble peace, if we shrink from the hard contests where men must win at the hazard of their lives and at the risk of all they hold dear, then bolder and stronger peoples will pass us by, and will win for themselves the domination of the world.”



# In Their Own Words

---

“Will you remember that we do only what our fathers did — we simply pitch the tents of liberty farther westward, farther southward. We only continue the march of the flag.”

# In Their Own Words

---

“There are so many real things to be done — canals to be dug, railways to be laid, forests to be felled, cities to be built, fields to be tilled, priceless markets to be won, ships to be launched...”



# Annexation of Hawaii

1887 - Congress establishes the Harbor naval base



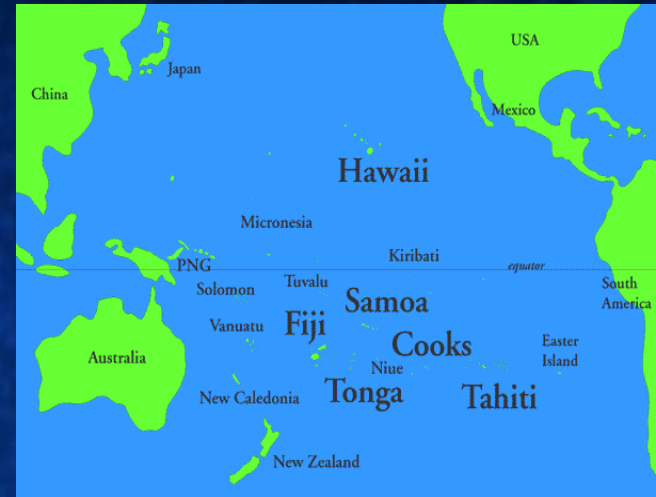
1893 - US sugar planters in Hawaii overthrow Queen Liliuokalani and declare Hawaii a US “protectorate”

- Used marines without presidential approval

President Grover Cleveland (Dem.) orders an investigation and refuses to annex Hawaii

# Annexation of Hawaii

1898 - US wins war with Spain and acquires the Philippine Islands north of Australia



President William McKinley (Rep.) argues that control of Hawaii is necessary to protect the Philippines and trade with Asia. Congress annexes Hawaii

1959 - Hawaii becomes the 50th state



# Spanish-American War

1895 - Revolts continue against Spanish rule in Cuba. Spain reacts harshly, which threatens American investments in Cuba.

- American newspapers, competing for readers, publish sensational stories about Spanish atrocities in Cuba, often without verifying information. This practice is called “yellow journalism.”
- The newspapers’ tabloid stories fuel jingoism - an extreme patriotic belief that one’s own country is the best - against Spain.





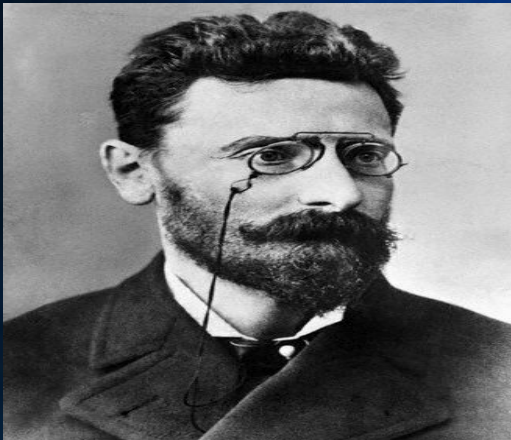


# Spanish-American War



## Yellow Journalism

William Randolph Hearst  
*New York Journal*



Joseph Pulitzer  
*New York World*

Did these two men start the Spanish-American War?

# Spanish-American War

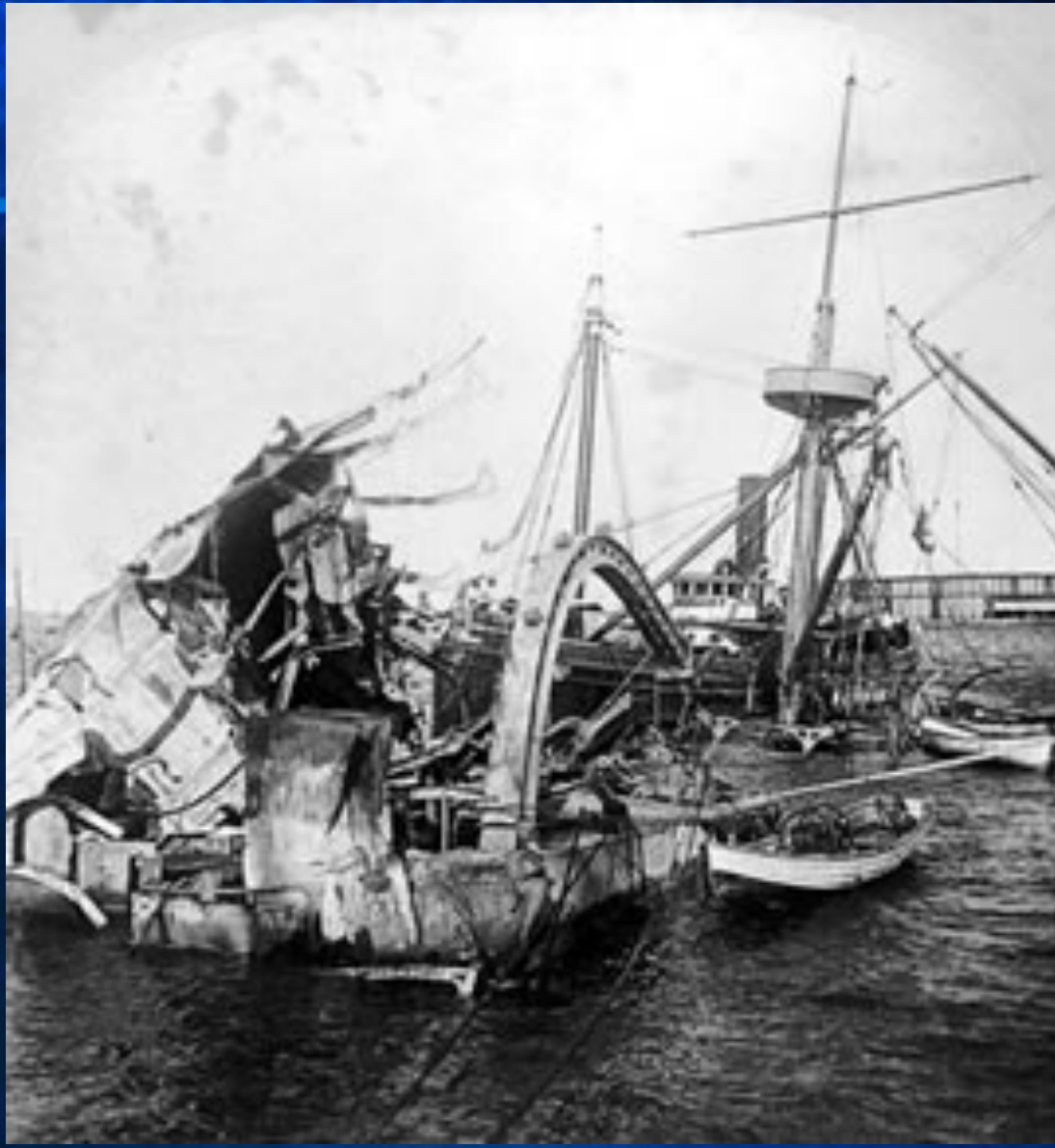
Feb. 1898 - *USS Maine*  
explodes off the coast of  
Havana

Hearst's newspaper accuses  
Spain and pressures  
Congress to declare war

US signs the Teller  
Amendment, promising  
Cuba that we will not annex  
the territory if we defeat  
Spain







*USS Maine*, Havana, Feb. 1898

## Maine Destroyed by an Outside Attack, Naval Officers Believe.

**Censored Dispatches from  
Havana Say a Shot Was  
Heard Before the Ship's  
Magazines Blew Up.**

Washington, Feb. 14.—The President has recently issued a special message to the Congress in support of the Cabinet as it stands.

With the Cabinet now in session, the following cabinet changes from President Johnson were issued as the President:

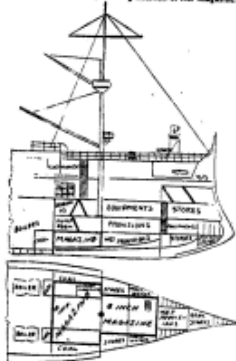
**Adding**—adding incoming naval secretary, Mr. William A. Smith, to the Navy. He is a much more experienced man than Mr. Jordan. Jordan and Lincoln will be retiring.

**Removing**—There is little hope for the future of the Navy Secretary, Mr. Lincoln. The Navy knows that the coming year will be a hard one for the Navy. The Navy Secretary, Mr. Lincoln, is a much more experienced man than Mr. Jordan.

**Adding**—adding incoming naval secretary, Mr. William A. Smith, to the Navy. He is a much more experienced man than Mr. Jordan. Jordan and Lincoln will be retiring.

**Removing**—There is little hope for the future of the Navy Secretary, Mr. Lincoln. The Navy knows that the coming year will be a hard one for the Navy. The Navy Secretary, Mr. Lincoln, is a much more experienced man than Mr. Jordan.

Plan of Maine's Bow, Showing Location of H&E Mammals.

[illegible]

**ENGLAND BELIEVES IT FOUL PLAY.**  
BY JOHN MURPHY.  
President William Howard Taft.  
Special Agent in Charge, London.  
London, Feb. 28.—The discovery in the Niger has caused a sensation in England. The British government has been accused of foul play.

[illegible][illegible]

The President and members of the Cabinet were still in conference when the Vice-President was at once admitted.

dispatch was received from General Linn, after informing, via telegraph, that the situation was not serious. Great numbers of troops were being sent to the frontier, and the authorities together had telegraphed details to Nancy Desjardins. "Are you prepared to report news of explosion?"

Public opinion in Washington is

**BUMMERS OF DYNAMITE.**

Victims' names reached New York in about thirty minutes. The Mayor had been looking up by the lamping of a small boat filled with dynamite or other high explosives against the battle ship's hull.

The Atlantic liner and three other ships are carrying troops and are scheduled to sail for New York in about a week.

A special committee of the armed forces committee, and department of justice, and the United States army and navy have been ordered to investigate the explosion of the battle ship.

The United States navy has been ordered to investigate the explosion and several to charge dynamite towards the ship.

[illegible]

253 KNOWN  
TO BE LOST

**EXTRA**  
NIGHT EXTRA.

GET WISE TO THE HYDRAULIC JOURNAL. STAYING AHEAD.

## M'KINLEY SUSPICIOUS OF SPANISH PLOTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The Kaiser is still in Germany. No definite statement has yet been received from him. The Kaiser is expected to return to Germany in the near future. The Kaiser is expected to return to Germany in the near future. The Kaiser is expected to return to Germany in the near future.

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS BRANCHES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11—All official Senate business for the day has been abandoned.

The President's reception to members of Congress, which would have taken place tonight, has been deferred off by the President.

WIDCAYA NOT THE NAME

The Electric under Vantage, Tropicana and in New York. The  
407, has not been signed up to 14. M. Every other day. The  
titled her.

SENSORS SUPPRESSING SEVERE

The main diagnosis has been avoided from discussion, giving any satisfactory explanation of the Master's decision, even if it does require, since diagnosis shows signs of The Spanish manner it is completely unconvincing here.

## RACING AT SUNDRELY.

SECOND RAIL-PIERCE, SUMNER, 1936

THESE SAW  
THE TRAGEDY

Passengers on a West Coast, desktop  
Hobby, had a View of the  
Fighting Scene.  
The airplane CRJ of West Coast

the Marine, and that passengers had a good view of the blowing up of the two ships.

**RUNDS OF DYNAMICS**

A small boat of the five came from the water, and a group of seven, five men and two women, stood before the ship and waved—about five feet tall and very slender, with long hair and olive-brown skin. The boat was the same shape as the small boat filled with treasure or other high explosives on the battle ship's bow.

It is a shame of becoming obsolete a few years from thousands of thousands of the ships.

...having Cohen interview him in every effort to go; dispatches...  
...in plausible ripens.

...of the ship at Washington is  
...the news of a dynamite plot

...the ... of the ...  
...in the ... way ...  
...



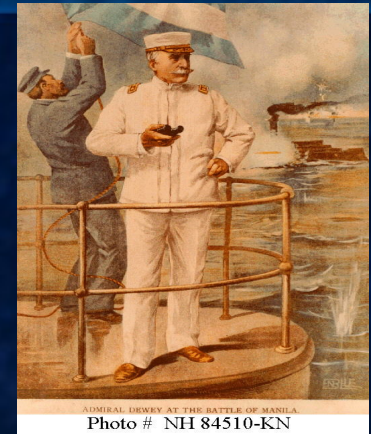
\_\_\_\_\_





Congress declares war on Spain, Apr. 1898

# Spanish-American War



- Pacific Ocean, Apr. 1898
  - **George Dewey**, a US Navy Commodore, defeats the Spanish navy in the Philippines without losing a single man. US now takes control of the Philippines north of Australia.
- Cuba, Jul. 1898
  - Teddy Roosevelt joins the **Rough Riders**. Supported by two African American regiments, they charge up San Juan Hill and help trap Spanish forces at Santiago.
  - US wins the war by sinking Spanish fleet in the Santiago harbor.



# Spanish-American War



Teddy Roosevelt as a Rough Rider in Cuba



# Spanish-American War



Roosevelt's Rough Riders win fame at San Juan Hill



# Spanish-American War

Within 3 months, the US had defeated the empire of Spain. Cuba was declared independent and US acquired new island territories. For these reasons, the war earned the nickname “Splendid Little War.”

## ■ Treaty of Paris (1898)

- Spain recognizes Cuban independence
- US gains Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam
- US pushes for the Platt Amendment to the Cuban constitution, which limits Cuban action without US approval

# Philippine Insurrection

Although the “Splendid Little War” seemed quick & easy, Filipino rebels immediately begin resisting US control of the Philippines.

The Philippine Insurrection lasted nearly 3 years & claimed 4,000 American lives.

- Only 400 died in battle against Spain!

American Anti-Imperialists called the US hypocritical & argued that the war was supposed to be about Cuban independence, not seizing territories like the Philippines.



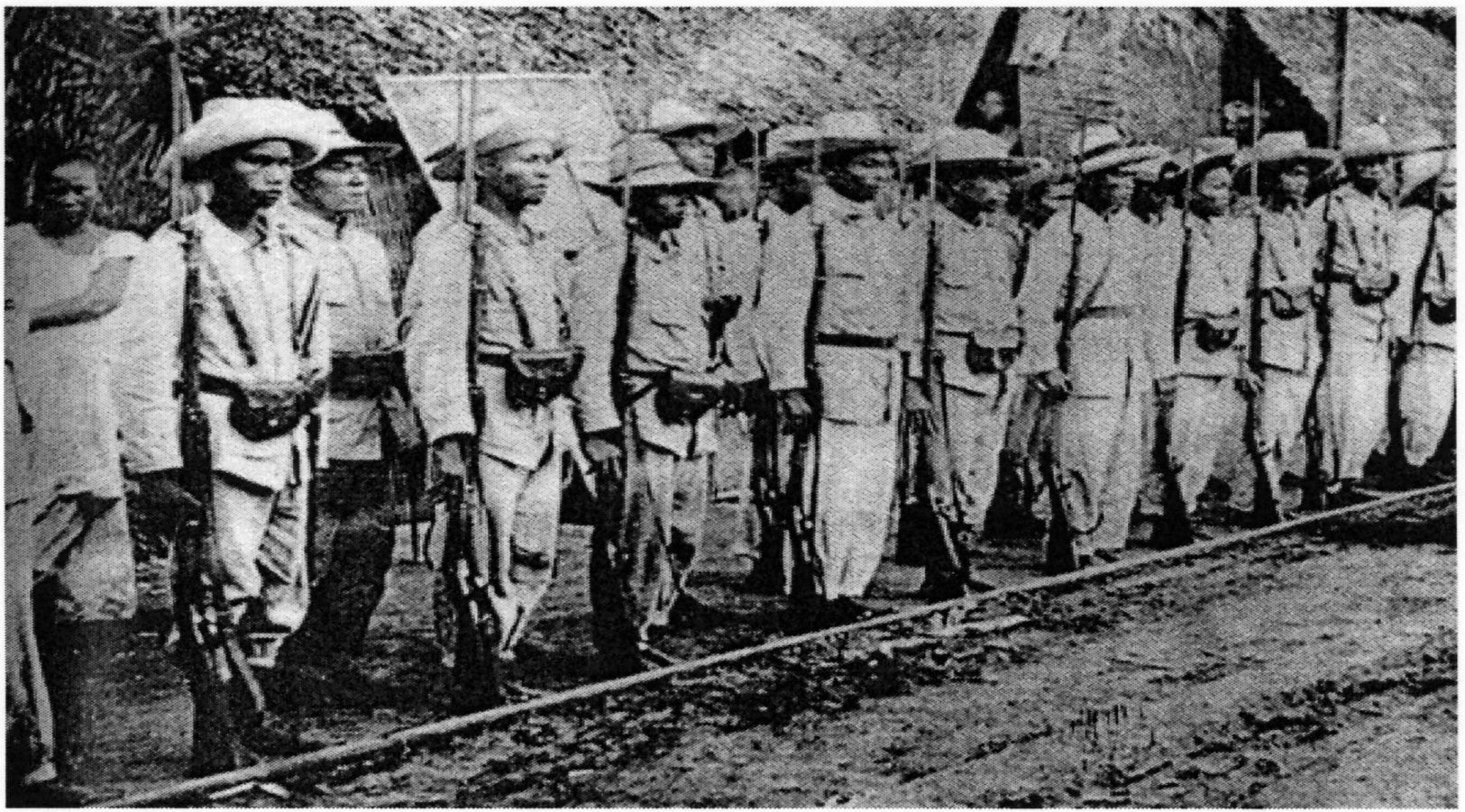
# Independence for Filipinos?



US fights a 3-year war for domination in the Philippines



# Independence for Filipinos?

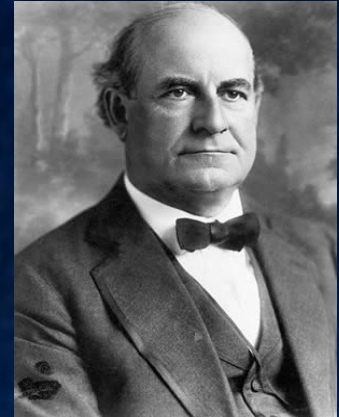


Filipino freedom fighters. Independence not achieved until 1946



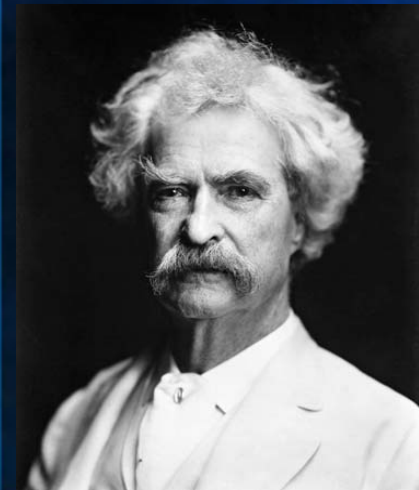
# Anti-Imperialism League

Why are we condemning Europeans for their empires, then turning around and creating one of our own?



William Jennings Bryan

Shouldn't Filipinos be able to have their independence like Cuba?



America should focus on its own lands and not look around the world greedily for other lands to control.

Mark Twain



"Liberty Halts American Butchery in the Philippines," from *Life*, 1899.

Anti-Imperialist cartoon



# Open Door Policy



1854 - US Navy Commodore

Matthew Perry opened trade with Japan

- Alaska, Hawaii, Philippines & Guam helped establish bases for Asian trade

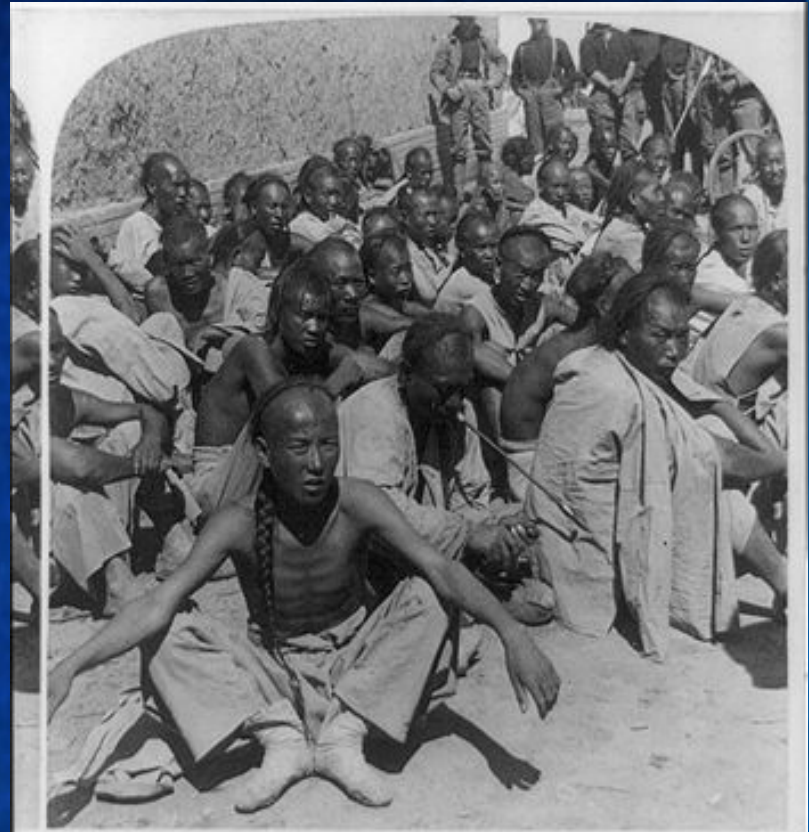
1894 - European empires had divided up & dominated trade in areas of China. Each empire claimed an area as its sphere of influence.

US Secretary of State John Hay argued that US trade in China would suffer unless all nations agreed to free trade in an Open Door Policy.

# Boxer Rebellion

1900 - Foreign occupation  
in China leads to rebellion

- Fists of Righteous Harmony attack Western property
- US sends armed forces to subdue uprising
- China had to pay \$330 million to US for damages



Some of China's trouble-makers—"Boxer" Prisoners captured and brought in by 6th U. S. Cavalry—Tientsin, China. Copyright 1901 by Underwood & Underwood.



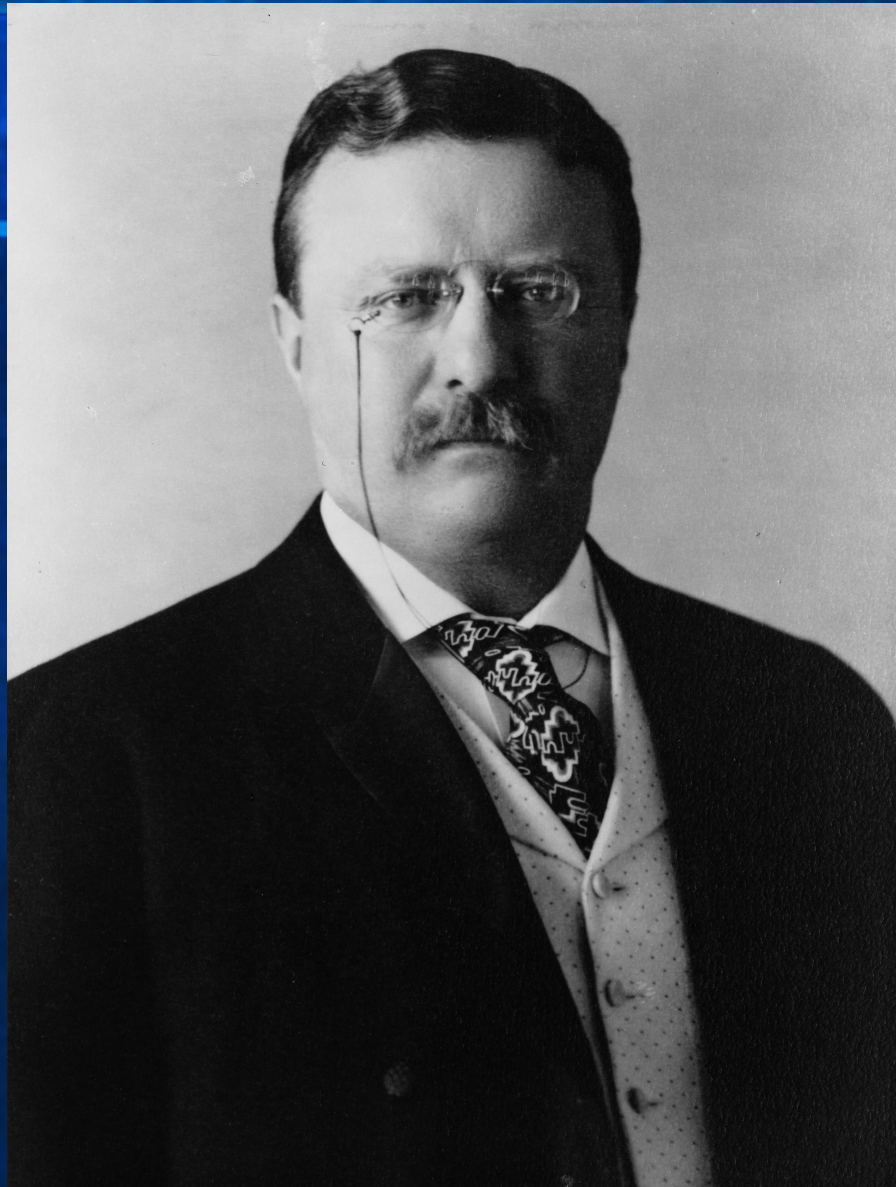


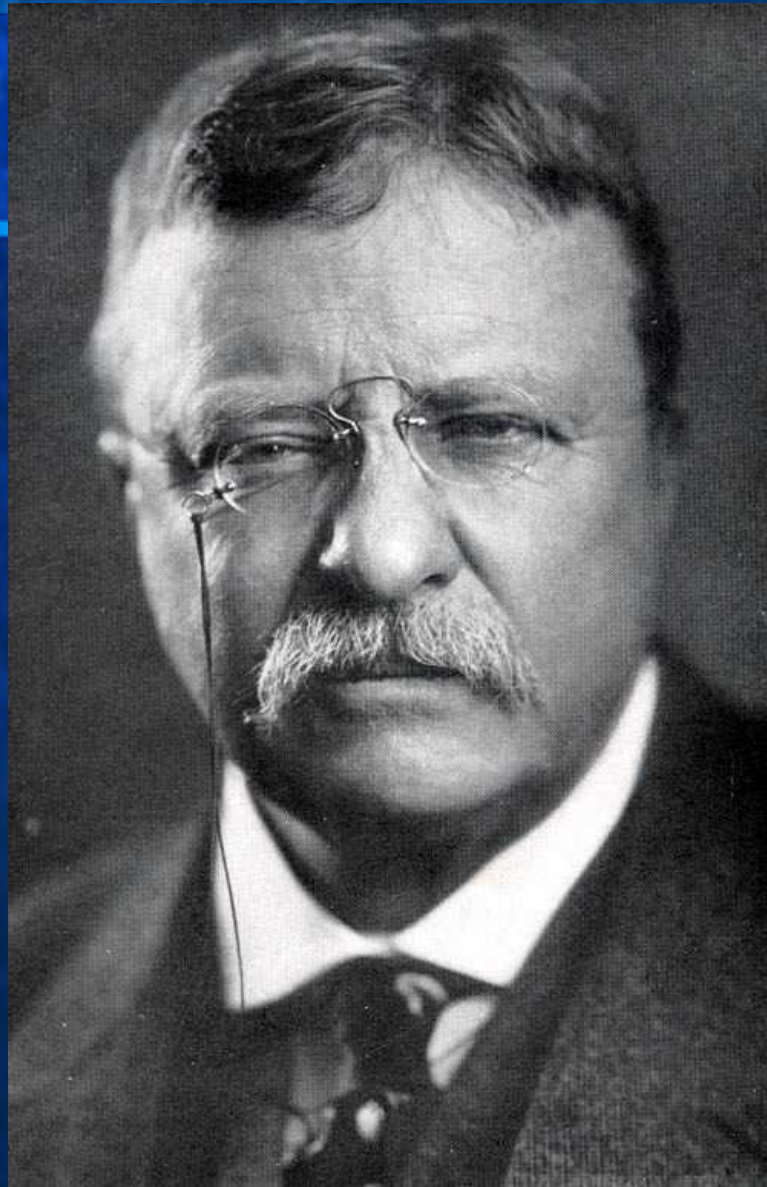


Teddy Roosevelt: Rough Rider

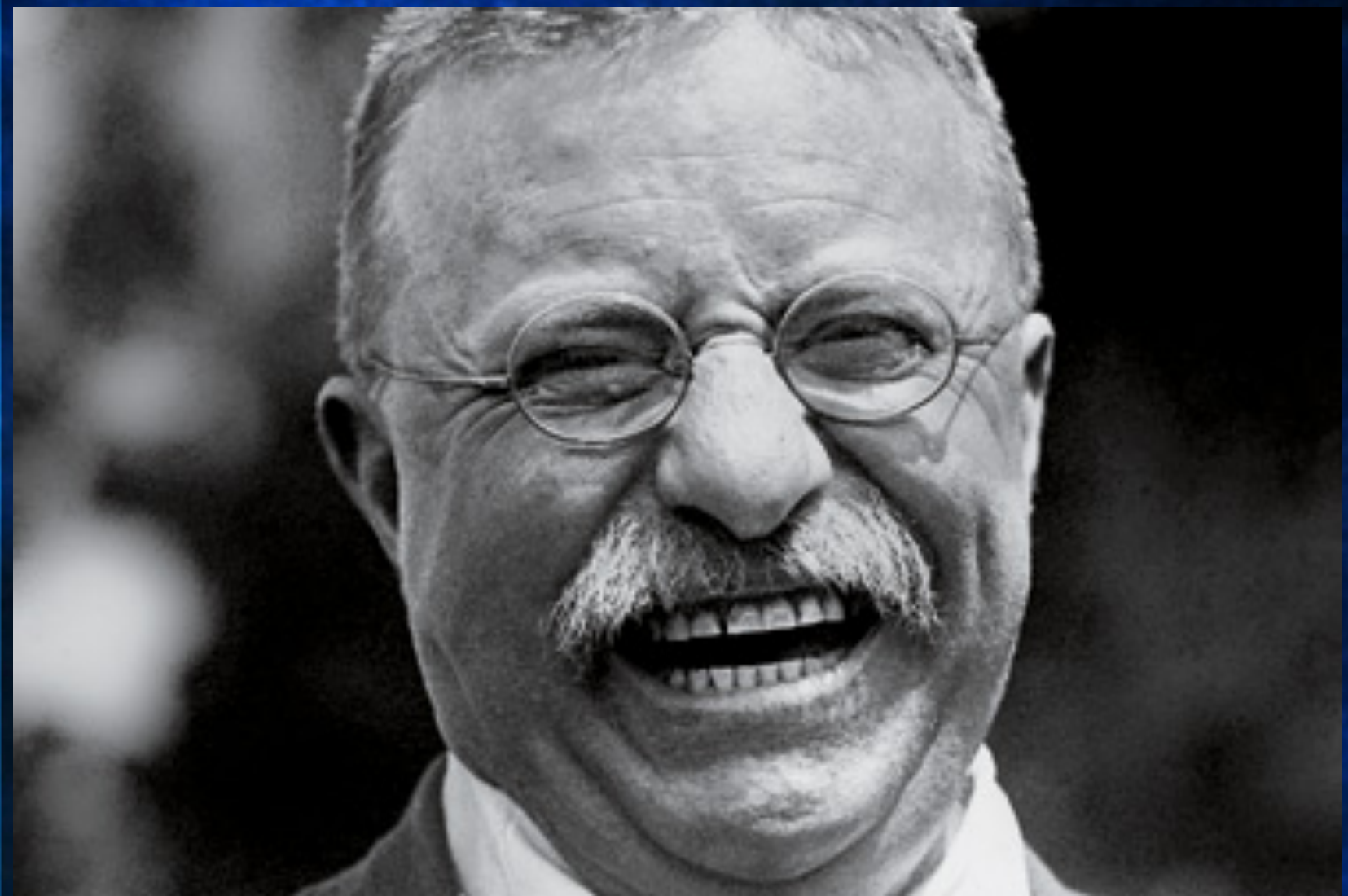




























# Roosevelt Corollary

The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 had blocked any further expansion of European powers in the Western Hemisphere.

When Latin American nations had large debts or civil unrest, Europe would often send warships to settle the matter.

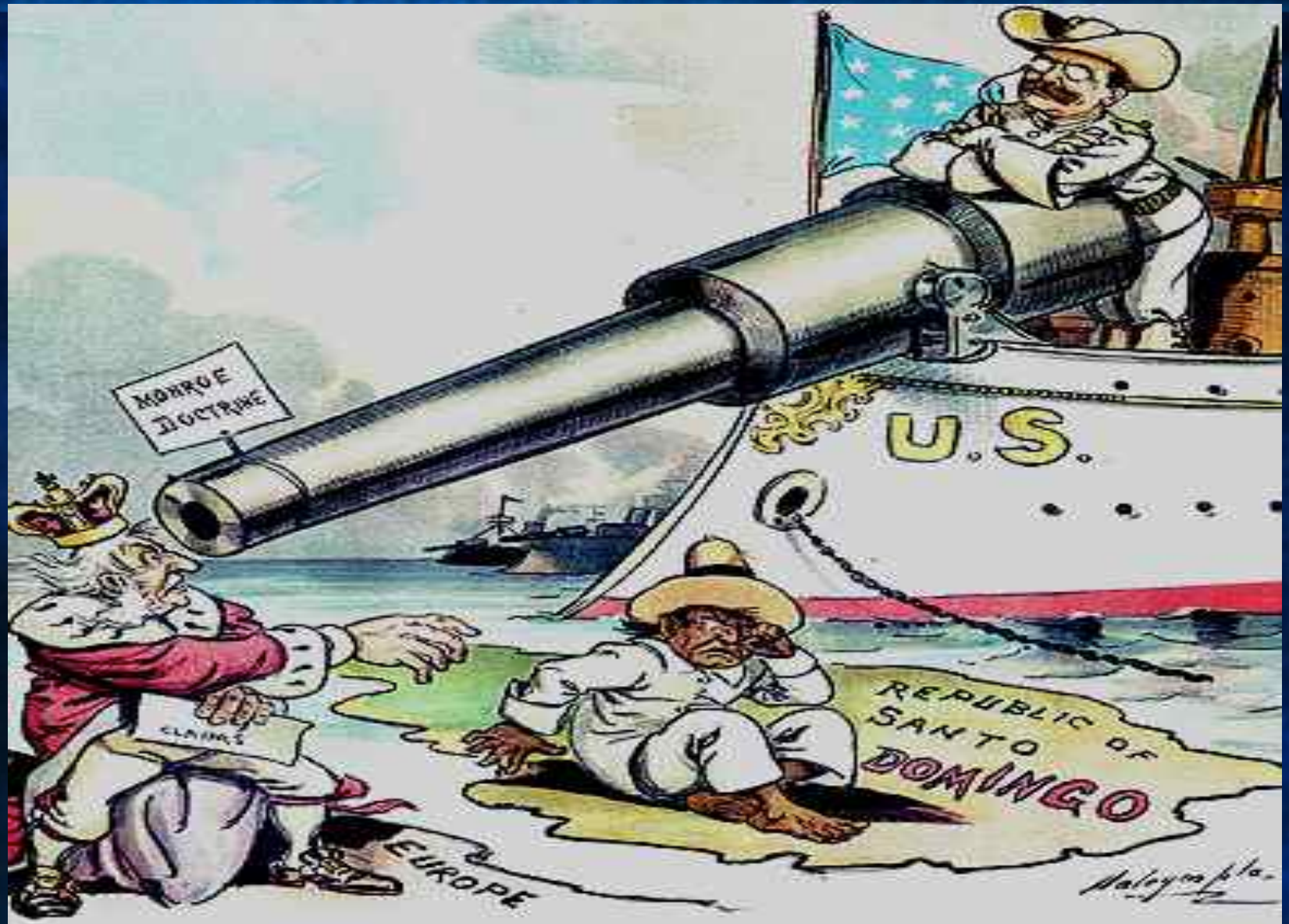
President Roosevelt issued his addition to the Monroe Doctrine in 1904.

- When problems arose in Latin America, the US military would intervene & handle the situation.
- Europe should remain across the seas & let America police the hemisphere.

# Roosevelt Corollary

“Chronic wrongdoing, or an impotence which results in a general loosening of ties of civilized society, may in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the western hemisphere, the adherence of the U.S. to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly, in flagrant cases of wrongdoing or impotence, to the exercise of international police power.”





Roosevelt Corollary backs up the Monroe Doctrine

# “Big Stick” Diplomacy

Roosevelt’s philosophy for foreign policy

- Remain firm & intervene when necessary
- Use American navy for back-up
- Protect US interests
- Defend territory while avoiding war

Many Latin Americans would come to resent the corollary, viewing the US influence in the region as imperialistic.

- US invaded Latin America over 35 times by the end of the 20th century.





“Big Stick” Diplomacy: “Speak softly and carry a big stick” - TR





“Big Stick” Diplomacy





# Panama Canal

US secures the rights from France to finish building the canal.

Colombia wanted more money for its land, so Roosevelt sent a gunboat to its shores.

Supported by the US, a group of “revolutionaries” declared Panama independent from Colombia. In return, the US is awarded the 10-mile strip of land.



# Panama Canal



\$345 million for the newest engineering feat





Mountains had to be moved





Canal reduced time from Atlantic to Pacific to 12 hours





Ownership greatly strengthened US economic power





US returned canal zone to Panama in 1999

# Francisco “Pancho” Villa



After the Mexican Revolution against dictator Porfirio Diaz, the US withdrew its support of “Pancho” Villa & instead supported a new dictator in the hopes of stabilizing the country.

Pancho Villa attacked US soldiers across the Mexican border, but escaped capture by Gen. John J. Pershing.



# Theories of Diplomacy

**“Big Stick” Diplomacy** (President T. Roosevelt)

**Dollar Diplomacy** (President Taft) - US should use investment and economic interests to get countries to do what we want

**Moral Diplomacy** (President Wilson) - US should be more careful about bullying other countries or doing business with bullies

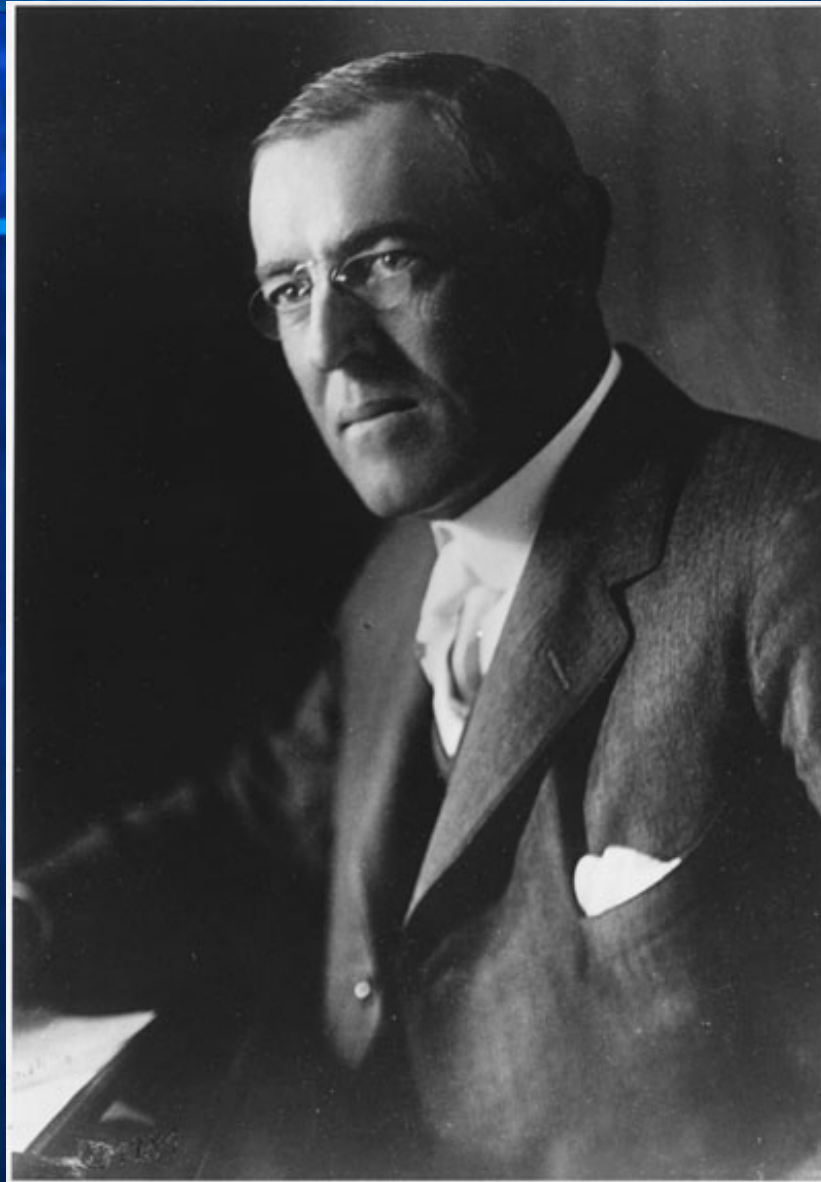


T. Roosevelt - “Big Stick” Diplomacy





Taft - Dollar Diplomacy



Wilson - Moral Diplomacy